

PRESS RELEASE

25 APRIL 2008

### BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE – ARTISTS ANNOUNCED!

The Ruskin Glass Centre, in association with the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers, is delighted to announce the artists for the 2008 British Glass Biennale exhibition. Over two days an expert panel of judges chaired by Will Farmer and comprised of Deirdre Figueiredo, Jeremy Hunt, Kim Mawhinney and Angela Thwaites, selected the very best of this years entries, all of which achieved a very high standard.

Eighty one artists were selected out of 235 applicants to present the most interesting, diverse and outstanding glass art made in the UK in the last two years. The work will form a cutting edge showcase of contemporary British based glass talent with £14,000 worth of awards to be won. Prize winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on 21 August at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge.

Both established artists and emerging new talent will be on display, including work by 11 students competing for the Glass Sellers Student Award. The selected artists have been brave and innovative, using a wide range of styles and techniques both traditional and experimental to create works that range from the Lilliputian to enormous.

Inspired by the tensions in the world around us, political statements on global conflicts were emerging for the first time, notably in works by Margereth Troli, Keeryong Choi and Peter Layton. Others have sought to lighten the darkness and lift our eyes upwards to elegantly worked chandeliers, based on traditional designs but meticulously worked in unusual ways, for example Richard Wheater's neon version 'Adapt'. Keeping us grounded are humorous and social works such as Carrie Fertig's lampworked sheep which are at once delicate and truculent. Angela Jarman, Fiaz Elson and Hannah Kippax have again produced powerful cast pieces, while Gayle Matthias, Rachel Elliott and Jude Stoll incorporate found objects with amusing results. The judges were delighted to see a selection of strong student entries, in particular works with exciting architectural references.

#### AWARDS

The Ruskin Glass Centre is delighted to be working in association with the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers to offer three prizes, with a student section incorporated for the first time. The British Glass Biennale Award 2008 is increased to £8000 for the piece judged by the Biennale jury to reflect the highest degree of creative achievement in contemporary British glass, and to be the 'best in show'.

The winners of the Glass Sellers Award and Glass Sellers Student Award will be selected by the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers. They will be looking for originality and talent in the use of glass as a medium of artistic expression and the awards are presented for the artistic and technical excellence of submissions predominantly in glass. The Glass Sellers Award: £5,000, Glass Sellers Student Award: £1,000.

The British Glass Biennale is a selling show with over 130 pieces of work ranging from the small scale to large installations and prices from £200 - £10,000 for sale to collectors and buyers.

British Glass Biennale  
Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge  
West Midlands, DY8 4HF

+44 01384 399410  
info@biennale.org.uk  
www.biennale.org.uk

The exhibition is open daily from 22 August to 28 September at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Stourbridge; the heart of the historic glass industry in the UK. The awards ceremony marks the star of the International Festival of Glass, a four day event celebrating the drama and excitement of glass.

## **ENDS**

### **For further information please contact:**

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### **BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE IMAGE BANK**

Images of the artist's work for the 2008 Biennale are available via the IFG website on its image bank: Go to: [www.ifg.org.uk/imagebank.html](http://www.ifg.org.uk/imagebank.html) Then click on BIENNALE IMAGES.

### **Editor's notes:**

#### **1. British Glass Biennale, August 22 - September 28**

On show at the Ruskin Glass Centre, Wollaston Road, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4HF  
Open every day: 10.00am – 5.00pm  
ENTRY TO THE EXHIBITION IS FREE

Jury panel members for the 2008 British Glass Biennale are: Director of Fieldings Auctioneers, Will Farmer; Director of Craftspace Touring, Deirdre Figueiredo; Editor of Art & Architecture, Jeremy Hunt; Curator of Applied Art at the Ulster Museum, Kim Mawhinney and Glass Artist, Angela Thwaites.

A highly desirable, full colour hard back catalogue accompanies the British Glass Biennale exhibition. The catalogue features all exhibiting artists work and essays from the jury panel. The catalogue retails at £28 and is available from the Ruskin Glass Centre, all participating indoor venues throughout the International Festival of Glass and specialist bookshops and galleries. It is free to the press.

#### **2. The International Festival of Glass 2008 22 – 25 August**

The third International Festival of Glass is the highlight of every glass enthusiast's calendar. Reinvigorating Stourbridge's reputation as a global glass centre it draws large national and international audiences into Stourbridge and the Black Country to see glassmaking at its finest. Featuring world class exhibitions, including the prestigious British Glass Biennale, demonstrations, performances and events, the festival shatters all preconceptions by presenting a multi-media, visually exciting and dynamic interpretation. Glass music, glass puppets, glass dresses, what can't you do with this amazing material! Come and be bewitched over the August bank holiday weekend with events throughout the historic Glass Quarter.

Info: [www.ifg.org.uk](http://www.ifg.org.uk)  
E mail: [info@ifg.org.uk](mailto:info@ifg.org.uk)

### **SPONSORS/ supporters:**

Ruskin Mill Educational Trust  
Advantage West Midlands  
Arts Council England  
Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers

**BRITISH GLASS BIENNALE ARTISTS 2008**

**\* indicates student entry for the Student Glass Sellers Award**

Karen Akester	Gayle Matthias
Stuart Akroyd	Meg McGregor*
Vic Bamforth	Jason Morris*
Grietje Beyaert*	Simon Moss
Laura Birdsall	Keiko Mukaide
Timothy Boswell*	Tracy Nicholls
Keith Brocklehurst	Amanda Notarianni
Karen Browning	Kevin Petrie
Sean Campbell	Anthony Pollock
Sabrina Cant	David Reekie
Keeryong Choi	Marie Retpen
Katharine Coleman	Stephen Reveley*
Bob Crooks	Bruno Romanelli
Vanessa Cutler	David Kaplan &
Shelley Doolan*	Annica Sandström
Sally Dunnett	Anthony Scala
Matthew Durran	Lesley Sharples*
Simon Eccles	Robyn Smith
Rachel Elliott	Ruth Spaak
Fiaz Elson	Andrea Spencer
Sally Fawkes	Jude Stoll
Carrie Fertig	Abigail Stradling*
Ray Flavell	Sabina Stumberger
David Flower	Nancy Sutcliffe
Stephen Gillies &	Ayako Tani*
Kate Jones	Jessica Townsend
Karl Harron	Margareth Troli
Daniel Haut	Hélène Uffren
Kate Henderson	Andrea Walsh
Clare Henshaw	Frans Wesselman
Charlotte Hughes-Martin	Richard Wheeler
Catherine Hough	Steven Whitehill*
Max Jacquard	Angharad Whitfield
Angela Jarman	Kathryn Wightman
June Kingsbury	Marianne Wilde
Hannah Kippax	Rachael Woodman
Peter Layton	Marie Worre Hastrup Holm
Sharon Leahy-Clark	Jeff Zimmer
James Lethbridge	
Tanwen Llewelyn	
Charlie Macpherson	
Allister Malcolm	
Joanna Manousis*	

